

OVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs. M. Davenport
Clerk

Jubilee Cottage
Ovington
Northumberland
NE42 6DH

Minutes of the Meeting of Ovingham Parish Council held on 15th November 2018 at 7.15 p.m. in the Reading Room, Ovingham

Present: Councillors Jordon, Gray, Campbell, Jackson and Kirkland, and 1 member of the public.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Foster and MacDonald (health) and County Cllr Quinn.
2. No declarations of interest were received.
3. The minutes of the last meeting on 18th October, having previously been circulated, were taken as read, agreed and signed.
4. County Councillors' Report: Unfortunately, County Cllr Quinn was unable to make the meeting at the last minute and was not able to prepare a report.
5. Matters arising: -
 - i) **Traffic issues:** Cllr Jordon had been trying to contact Neil Snowdon, Highways, without success despite numerous phone calls. As there had been no response with regards further speed surveys, she will chase this up with County Cllr Quinn. Cllr Gray mentioned that a proposal had been discussed at a recent Forum meeting which would involve the Police liaising with the local community in trying to combat speeding. This was at an early stage but could be something to consider.
 - ii) **Allotment Association Tenancy agreement (amended):** Representatives from the Allotment Association had attended the council surgery earlier when Cllr Gray proposed that section 2(n) be amended to state "To allow a maximum of two sites for the keeping of bees and to ensure such plot holders have the relevant insurance cover in place..." and "... All sites shall be subject to the same terms as the current site and shall not be in direct public view." Cllr Gray reported that the representatives seemed happy with this proposal and it was agreed that an amended agreement be forwarded to the Allotment Association.
6. **Accounts to pay/be paid:**

M. Davenport (Salary & expenses Oct)	£302.50
Ovingham Reading Room (meeting in Oct)	£15.00
Kompan (swing seats)	£144.00
NCC (Bollards opposite schools) (Ovington Parish Council to pay 50%)	£1344.00
Wel Medical (pad for defibrillator)	£83.82
Hags smp (zip wire biennial check)	£270.00
Royal British legion (Poppy wreath)	£25.00
P Holden (key & petrol)	£24.74

T Bell (grass cuts)	£280.00
East Tynedale Community Forum (annual subs)	£40.00
A Jackson (playing field maintenance)	£260.00
D Jordon (telephone calls)	£8.50

7. **Planning Application:**
Cllr Gray advised that there was nothing further to report with regards the Glebe Barns application which was being dealt with by NCC. Work had halted at The Bridge End, and NCC had advised Cllr Gray that work completed to date was within the planning confines although when the planning officer visited the site, there was no-one working there. Cllr Gray will continue to press the planning department for updates.
8. **Parish Council Tree Inspection:** This issue had arisen due to concerns that Parish Councils could be held responsible for claims against trees on their land. Cllr Jordon had looked at areas owned by Ovingham Parish Council, such as Pack Horse Green, Tentergarth and Jimmy Johnsons Garden. She thought potentially the areas which could cause most concern were the trees in Jimmy Johnsons Garden and Tentergarth. Cllr Jackson advised a qualified tree surgeon needed to be consulted and an opinion sought. Cllr Jordon will contact a tree surgeon to find out further information with regards inspections. Depending on that, further action may then have to be taken. The Clerk had previously circulated a copy of a policy adopted by Wylam Parish Council, but it was acknowledged that they employed a tree surgeon. She will re-circulate as it was agreed that the Parish Council, at least, would be seen to be doing something.
9. **To consider budget/precept for 2019/2020:** The Clerk had circulated updated figures, which included expenditure agreed above. Other than expected income from the hiring of the Pavilion, it was agreed that most annual figures will remain much the same. Expenditure on the Pavilion had been large this year, but little was anticipated for the next financial year. Cllr Jordon proposed that the precept remain at £15,300 and this was unanimously agreed.
10. **Parish Council Surgery/Village plan updates:** Following the last meeting, Cllr Jordon had contacted Andy Olive, NCC, who will look at the uneven path and dropped kerb at the entrance to Piper Road. It was noted the zip wire inspection had been carried out – a couple of minor issues which Cllrs Campbell and Kirkland will attend to.
11. **Village environment:** Following an email from a resident, Cllr Jordon has been in touch with Karbon Homes about the state of the grassed area in Windsor Crescent. Vehicles parking on the edge of the greens in order to drive past parked vehicles has caused a lowering of the land surface between the greens and the kerb. This could cause damage to the undercarriage of cars and there is a danger of pedestrians tripping. Cllrs acknowledged the road was narrow, and it was likely there would be no money available from Karbon Homes to come up with a solution but Cllr Jordon has requested the edges of the greens be repaired. Cllr Jordon had met with the Home Group representative to discuss the removal of household items, cutting of hedges and improvements to the footpaths in Bewick Lane. Items have been removed and ground maintenance carried out - the area has been given a facelift. The Post box on Castle View had been taped up because of road closure but has now been removed by the

Post Office. Someone had tried to move the bollards by the school – the Police had been informed but there was little they could do. Cllr Jordon advised the bollards will be attended to by a volunteer. Several maintenance jobs had been attended to on the Playing Field, but others still needed to be dealt with; the small climbing frame will be repainted in the spring; the wooden framework inside the large willow structure needs attention and the goal posts. Cllr Jordon also reminded the Cllrs that the village inspection was due, and she asked that they attend to their areas.

12. **Committee Reports:** There was nothing to report from the Reading Room Committee. Cllr Kirkland had attended a meeting of SCA (Essity) – work was being carried out on the “Badger” . He had queried 20mph speed limit signage in place in Wylam with the Wylam representative at the meeting. Discussions between Cllrs then took place on the different types of 20mph signage and how effective these are.

Cllr Jordon advised that there had not been a recent meeting of the Burial Committee, but work had commenced on the trees mentioned at the last meeting. Unfortunately, some complaints had been received from residents, but these had been attended to.

The Clerk had circulated copies of Ovifun and OPPFUG insurance policies as Cllr Jordon was concerned areas of cover were already included in the Parish Councils insurance. It was agreed that the policy for Ovifun was appropriate and relevant but Cllrs Jordon, Gray and the Clerk will look at OPPFUG’s policy in more detail. Cllr Jordon was disappointed that a meeting had still not been organised for OPPFUG. Concerns were raised as to whether OPPFUG will continue to exist, but Cllr Jordon replied that the Parish Council had 2 representatives on OPPFUG and they should be able to provide answers.

13. **Correspondence:**

a) **Letter of thanks received from Ovingham Community Orchard:** This had been circulated and noted.

b) **Letter from OviFun with regards to Pavilion hire charge:** The Clerk had circulated a copy of the letter which had been received following the recently held AGM of OviFun in the Pavilion. Payment had been received but Ovifun queried if they will be charged for future use and for storing equipment. The Cllrs agreed that there would be no charge for equipment storage but felt that the £15 fee should still be levied- this was comparable to other venues and although Ovifun used the facilities to raise money for the community, it was no different to, for example, a charity being charged for room hire as part of a fundraising event. Cllr Jordon will draft a letter and circulate for comments.

c) **Enquiry from TV Licensing:** The Clerk had completed an online form confirming that there was no tv at the Pavilion, but it was agreed that a notice should be displayed on the premises as if anyone downloaded tv programmes via a mobile or lap top for instance, the Parish Council would be liable and subject to a fine.

14. **Distribution:** This was still in circulation.

15. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 17th January 2019.

16. There being no other business as considered urgent by the Chair, the meeting closed at 8.50pm.